Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 080804Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 0065

FOR NEA/EX

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, SY

SUBJECT: COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE CONNECTED INJURY - FSLE CHAFIC AYOUB

1. IN JUNE 1967, FOLLOWING THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, FSLE CHAFIC AYOUB WAS DETAINED BY SYRIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES. HE WAS HELD FOR 45 DAYS DURING WHICH HE WAS SEVERELY BEATEN DURING INTERROGATIONS. THE BEATINGS DAMAGED HIS LEFT EYE AND DESPITE FOUR OPERATIONS HE NOW HAS ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT VISION IN THE INJURED EYE. MEDICAL COSTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT ADDITONAL SURGERY WILL BE REQUIRED TO RETAIN THE LIMITED VISION HE STILL HAS IN HIS LEFT EYE.

- 2. PRIOR TO HIS INJURY, MR. AYOUB OPERATED A CHICKEN AND EGG BUSINESS AT HIS VILLAGE 60 MILES NORTH OF DAMASCUS TO AGUMENT HIS MODEST SALARY. THE BUSINESS NECESSITATED HIS DRIVING TO THE VILLAGE DURING THE WEEK AND AT WEEKENDS. HIS PRESENT CONDITION NO LONGER PERMITS LONG DISTANCE DRIVING AND HIS DOCTORS HAVE ADVISED HIM NOT TO LIFT WEIGHTS EXCEEDING TEN POUNDS. BECAUSE OF HIS PHYSICAL INCAPACITY MR. AYOUB HAS BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP WHAT WAS ONCE A PROFITABLE BUSINESS WHICH GREATLY BENEFITTED HIS FAMILY AND WHICH HE WAS COUNTING ON AS A VITAL ELEMENT IN HIS RETIREMENT INCOME. (HE IS NOW 54 YEARS OLD.)
- 3. BECAUSE MR. AYOUB'S INJURY IS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD BE COMPENSATED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. ALL FILES

CONCERNING THIS MATTER ARE HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT AND RAY HUNT THE FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEA IS BELIEVED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE.

4. INSOFAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE NO BEC CLAIM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED THUS FAR. WE BELIEVE MR. AYOUB WOULD QUALIFY FOR LUMP SUM COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF HIS LEFT EYE UNDER THE TERMS OF 3 FAM 689 APPENDIX A. (P. 6) SECTION 8107 (C) (141). HOWEVER, MR. AYOUB WOULD PREFER COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF INCREASED RETIREMENT BENEFITS LATER WHEN HIS YOUNG CHILDREN WILL BE FACED WITH EDUCATION EXPENSES. THE EMBASSY ASSUMES IN ANY CASE WHATEVER AWARD IS MADE WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE FUTURE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THE EYE AT DEPARTMENT EXPENSE.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE BUREAU LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER AND ADVISING WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT MR. AYOUB IS PROVIDED THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION POSSIBLE AND WHETHER HE MAY HAVE THE OPTION OF INCREASED RETIREMENT BENEFITS IN LIEU OF LUMP SUM PAYMENT. IN VIEW PARA 1 EXPLANATION OF CAUSES HIS ACCIDENT, PLEASE CLASSIFY ANSWER. MURPHY

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